

OXBOW ECO-CENTER

CALENDAR SEPTEMBER THROUGH MARCH

5400 N.E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
(772) 785-5833; www.oxboweco.com; oxbow@stlucieco.org

Center hours are Tuesday through Friday from 12-5pm, Saturday from 10am-5pm.
Trails are open daily from dawn until dusk.

***Visit the center for some free fun activities and check out our cool exhibits.
Please note new schedule of dates and times.***

September – Wiggling Worms Month

Home School Day at the Oxbow “How Fire Shapes Florida” – NEW PROGRAM -- September 1 at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Grades K-4th 10am-12pm; Grades 5th-12th 1:30-3:30pm; \$3/participant; 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Homeschool groups are invited to come to class at the Oxbow the first Thursday of each month. The day is divided for young students in the morning, older students in the afternoon. Pre-registration is required to ensure a spot. Our first adventure will take us to a site where land managers performed a prescribed fire. Students will learn the important role fires and hurricanes play in the Florida Landscape.

Brown Bag Lecture “Vermiculture Basics”— NEW DAY (1st Saturday of month) - September 3 at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join as Master Gardener Diane Goldberg shows participants how easy it is to become a farmer – a worm farmer that is. Ms. Goldberg will discuss the fun and satisfying art of composting, even if you live in an urban setting!

Worm Bin Workshop – SPECIAL PROGRAM, September 3rd at 1 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, \$25 per person, RSVP, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Master Naturalist/Master Gardener Diane Goldberg will help participants build their own worm farm in a bin, so they can start creating compost to use in their gardens. Workshop follows Vermiculture lecture. Cost is \$25 and pre-registration is required as space is limited.

Swamp Tales – NEW DAY (2nd Thursday of month) -- September 8 at 3:45pm at Oxbow Eco-Center; FREE; 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join us each month for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! Story and activity appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

Nature for Families—“A Worm-tastic Adventure” -- NEW TIME -- September 10 at 10:30am at Oxbow Eco-Center; \$4 per participant; 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Take a look into the exciting life of the earthworm. Participants will start their adventure by studying how worms move and their interesting adaptations, then they will create a practice worm bin with magic worms. Appropriate for ages 6 and up. RSVP a must.

Oxbow and the Natives- “Florida’s Composters” – NEW DAY (3rd Thursday of month) -- September 15 at 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; FREE; 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. From millipedes to mushrooms, join us to learn interesting facts about Florida's native composters. These little guys provide

just the right nourishment for our beloved plants. Participants will also get to watch as the Oxbow animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite foods. Appropriate for all ages.

Oxbow Treehouse Time- “A Wiggling Giggling Good Time” -- September 16 at 9:30am at the Oxbow Eco-Center; FREE; 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Warm-up with our naturalists by moving like a slinky slimy worm, then join us on a worm finding expedition. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

Art Class “Zentangles in Color” -- NEW DAY (3rd Saturday of month) NEW ADDITIONAL CLASS FOR KIDS -- September 17 at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Adult class 10:00am–12:00pm; Youth Class 1:30pm-3:30pm; \$20 per participant; RSVP; 772-785-5833 or www.oxboweco.com. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with the Oxbow to present this fun, nature-inspired art class. This program explores the art of Zentangling, which is a form of drawing often described as “doodling with patterns.” Use nature’s own designs to get inspired! RSVP a must.

Teacher Workshop “Archaeology in the Classroom” – SPECIAL PROGRAM – September 30 at the Oxbow Eco-Center from 10:00am-2:00pm; FREE; RSVP a must; 772-785-5833 or www.oxboweco.com. The Oxbow and Florida Public Archaeology Network are teaming up to offer this fantastic FREE educator workshop. Participants will learn about Florida’s prehistory and some great hands-on lessons that can be used for K-12 students. Space is limited so please RSVP.

October – Bountiful Bats Month

Brown Bag Lecture “Bats of Florida”— October 1st at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Join local batman Ken Gioeli, natural resource agent with the Cooperative Extension Service, as he introduces bats of Florida and talks about their role in the ecosystem. Gioeli will also be talking about exclusionary techniques for removing bats from homes and businesses. Also, you can join in a night hike at 6:30pm with Ken and the gang, in search of our nocturnal neighbors. Call the Oxbow for more information.

Nocturnal Neighbor Night Hike –October 1st at 6:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, \$5 per participant. Join Ken Gioeli and others on a night hike in search of our nocturnal neighbors ... bats, owls, frogs, and more. Participants will get to explore the Oxbow woods at night in search of these unique animals. RSVP is required.

Home School Day at the Oxbow “Creating a Butterfly Garden” – October 6th; Grades K-4th 10am-12pm; Grades 5th-12th 1:30-3:30pm; \$3/participant. Get down and dirty with the Oxbow staff and the St. Lucie West Garden Club as we design and build a butterfly garden at the Oxbow. Students will learn about larval and nectar plants and which butterflies various plants attract. Then we will design our garden and begin preparing it for planting. RSVP a must!

Nature for Families “Going Batty”— NEW TIME- October 8th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Look up in the sky! It’s a plane, it’s a bird ... no, it’s a Free-tailed Bat! Learn about all the features that make bats unique and then become a bat as we experience a riveting round of echo-location, the bat sensing game. Participants will also get a chance to make a bat of their very own to take home. Appropriate ages 5 and up; \$4 per participant. RSVP a must.

Swamp Tales— October 13th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free

story and activity program is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

Art Class -- “Make Your Own Beads”— October 15th; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15); 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present this fun, nature-inspired art class. Learn how to use paper to make your own beautiful beads. \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). RSVP a must.

Oxbow and the Natives “Favorite Foods of Florida’s Flying Mammal”— October 20th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Not all bats drink blood or eat fruit! Florida’s bats are actually insectivores so they eat a lot of those pesky mosquitoes. Join us as we discuss our flying mammals, and then watch as the Oxbow animal ambassadors enjoy their dinner. This is a free program for all ages.

Treehouse Time “Snacking with Bats” -- October 21st at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Warm-up with our naturalists by flying around the building looking for delicious buggy snacks. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

Little Tyke Halloween Hike – October 22nd at 11am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, \$2/child. Get revved up for Halloween by showing off your costume early at the Oxbow’s “Little Tyke Hike. Children ages 2 to 6 will be hiking through our not so scary woods and wishing happy Halloween to all of the animals that call Oxbow home. Please RSVP.

Fall Fun Day at the 4-H Farm – October 29th from 10am – 2pm, \$3/adult & \$2/child at the 4-H Farm 1901 S. FFA Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34945; call the Oxbow for more info (772) 785-5833. Enjoy a fun-filled chance to visit St. Lucie County’s 4-H Farm. We will be holding our first ever open house for families! You’ll get to meet our horses, cows, donkey, pig, sheep, goats, chickens, turkeys and ducks. There will also be crafts, pony rides, face painting, food vendors and an observational bee hive. All the proceeds go toward taking care of the 4-H educational farm and animals! No RSVP required but call (772) 785-5833 for more information or directions to the farm.

November – Awesome Owls Month

Guided Hikes – Every Saturday at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

Home School Day at the Oxbow “Buggin’ in the Garden” – November 3rd; Grades K-4th 10am-12pm; Grades 5th-12th 1:30-3:30pm; \$3/participant. Students will continue planting and tending the garden, while learning more about the importance of pollinators, the life cycle of butterflies, the life cycle of plants, and hopefully learn to appreciate even the smallest creatures hiding in the soil. RSVP a must!

Brown Bag Lecture “Owls of Florida”-- November 5th at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join Dan Martinelli, Executive Director of Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital and his live Owl friends as he discusses Florida’s amazing Owl species. From their vocalizations to appearances and behaviors, each owl has their own unique adaptations that make them an integral part to Florida’s many ecosystems. **\$3 per person recommended donation. RSVP is a must!**

Swamp Tales— November 10th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

Nature for Families “Outstanding Owl”-- November 12th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Give a HOOT and join us for an exciting introduction into the world of owls. From their cool features to their interesting pellets, participants will get a chance to hear an owl and see what they eat. Make an adorable handprint owl to take home with you. Appropriate ages 6 and up; \$4 per participant. RSVP a must.

Oxbow and the Natives — November 17th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Participants will be learning about the different owls and what animals make up their food web. Following the program stay to watch as the Oxbow animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite foods. This is a free program for all ages.

Treehouse Time – November 18th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Warm-up with our naturalists by moving like an owl and playing a round of ‘Mrs. Owl says.’ This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

“Collage Cards” Art Class —November 19th; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present this fun, nature-inspired art class making beautiful collage cards that can be given as gifts or framed for your wall. \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). RSVP a must.

December – Dr. Seuss Month

Guided Hikes – Every Saturday at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

Home School Day at the Oxbow “Wild Weather and the Watershed” – December 1st; Grades K-4th 10am-12pm; Grades 5th-12th 1:30-3:30pm; at the Oxbow Eco-Center; \$3/participant. Students will be learning about the water cycle, watersheds, and extreme weather of Florida. They will be participating in hands-on activities learning about atmospheric pressure, forecasting the weather, and looking at how water (and often pollution) moves through the water system. RSVP a must!

Brown Bag Lecture “Get a clean energy loan, and let the savings pour in”— December 3rd at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. St. Lucie County is empowering its residents and businesses to save money and reduce energy consumption through the Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF). Learn how this program can benefit you as Doug Coward, former St. Lucie County Commissioner and current interim Executive Director of the SELF program, explains this conservation initiative that has drawn national and international attention for its innovative approach.

Dr. Seuss Movie – December 3rd at 2:00 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Join us for a stupendous Dr. Seuss movie. Feel free to bring a snack and drink for your movie watching pleasure.

Swamp Tales— December 8th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free

story and activity program is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

Nature for Families “A Dr. Seuss Adventure”— December 10th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Children will discover the creative world of Dr. Seuss by acting out some of his beloved characters, and creating their own Seuss-like rhyme involving Oxbow animals. During the program everyone will be making and fishing for “One Fish, Two Fish; Red Fish Blue Fish.” Appropriate ages 5 and up; \$4 per participant. RSVP a must.

Oxbow and the Natives “Florida vs. Dr. Seuss’s animals”— December 15th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Learn about how some of Florida’s native animals like the manatee and mole and compare them to Dr. Seuss’s friends. Following the program watch as the Oxbow animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite foods. This is a free program for all ages.

Treehouse Time – December 16th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Enjoy some Seuss songs and dances with your little-ones . This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

“Making Ornaments” Art Class -- December 17th; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present this fun, nature-inspired art class making ornaments to add to your holiday decorations or to give as gifts. \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). RSVP a must.

January – Wonderful Water Month

Guided Hikes – Every Saturday at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

There will be no Home School Day for this month.

Brown Bag Lecture “The Benefits of Rain Barrels”— January 7th at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE lecture. Join UF/St. Lucie County’s Natural Resources Extension Agent Ken Gioeli as he discusses the value and cost savings of adding a rain barrel to your garden. After the program there will be a hands-on workshop to build your own rain barrel.

Rain Barrel Workshop – January 7th at 1pm. Join UF/St. Lucie County’s Natural Resources Extension Agent Ken Gioeli as he shows you how to build your own rain barrel to add to your home garden. The cost of the workshop is \$45 and includes all the supplies. Pre-registration for the workshop is a must and participants need to register by December 29th, 2011. Please visit <http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu> for more information or to sign up.

Swamp Tales— January 12th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

Nature for Families “Oxbow Kids Superhero Club -- January 14th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Hey kids, did you know you can become a superhero just by doing some simple but really valuable things around your house? Let us show you how to save the planet with some tricks to help save energy and water, and recycle! Each superhero will be creating their own costume out of recycled materials.

Appropriate ages 7 and up; \$4 per participant. RSVP a must.

Oxbow and the Natives “Aquatic Critters of Florida”— January 19th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Learn about Florida’s native aquatic animals and then watch as the Oxbow animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite foods. This is a free program for all ages.

Treehouse Time “Water Babies” – January 20th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Warm-up with our naturalists by moving like a fish, a turtle or your favorite aquatic animal. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

“Drumhead Art” Art Class -- January 21st; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present this really awesome art class ... making decorative drumhead art. Participants will make unique art using paper and paint attached to a round frame ... not only are they beautiful, but they can make a beautiful sound when tapped (hence the name ‘drum art’). \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). RSVP a must.

February – Fantastic Fish Month

Guided Hikes – Every Saturday at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

Home School Day at the Oxbow “Mystery of the Missing Prickly Pear Hike” – February 2nd; Grades K-4th 10am-12pm; Grades 5th-12th 1:30-3:30pm; at the Oxbow Eco-Center; \$3/participant. Students will enjoy a hike in the Oxbow woods where they will be learning about ecological concepts including food webs, animal classifications, plant structures, and predator/prey relationships. Students need be dressed appropriately and bring a hat and water. RSVP a must!

Brown Bag Lecture “Fish of the St. Lucie River”— February 4th at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join the Oxbow for its Brown Bag Lecture on the fish of the St. Lucie River.

Swamp Tales— February 9th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

Nature for Families “Fish Faces”-- February 11th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Have you ever noticed that fish have many different faces? From the shark to the puffer fish each face is designed for a purpose. Venture into the murky deep to learn about the different adaptations of fish. Appropriate for ages 5 and up; \$4 per participant. RSVP a must.

Oxbow and the Natives “Ogie the Opossum Pipefish”— February 16th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Meet the Oxbow’s river ambassador Ogie and learn about this very unique fish that’s found in the St. Lucie River. This is a free program for all ages.

Treehouse Time –February 17th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Toddlers will go on an imaginary canoe trip down the St. Lucie River and try a fun fish chorus. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

Art Class -- “Braiding with Paracord”— February 18st; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids

session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present this fun and useful art class. Participants will make bracelets and necklaces with parachute cord. The bracelets are beautiful, but also considered an excellent addition to a survival kit as the cord can be unraveled for a variety of uses. \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). RSVP a must.

March – Migration Month

Guided Hikes – Every Saturday at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

Home School Day at the Oxbow “The Biogeography of Florida” – March 1st; Grades K-4th 10am-12pm; Grades 5th-12th; 1:30-3:30pm; at the Oxbow Eco-Center; \$3/participant. Students will learn about the mega fauna that once roamed Florida like the mastodon and the giant ground sloth. Master Chef Iggy Rock will be cooking up some of our favorite rock meals and show students how rocks are used in our everyday lives. RSVP a must!

Brown Bag Lecture “Florida’s Migratory Corridors”— March 3rd at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Florida is a critical state for migrating birds. Learn about the birds that make the great migration to and through Florida in this free lunchtime lecture.

Swamp Tales— March 8th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

Nature for Families “Migration 101”—March 10th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Not just birds migrate! Many other animals like bees, bats, amphibians and butterflies spend their whole lives traveling from one place to another. Imagine being a tiny honey bee and having to travel 6 miles just to get some to ingredients to make dinner. Participants will get to experience migration through the eyes of a bug. Appropriate for ages 5 and up; \$4 per participant. RSVP a must.

Oxbow and the Natives “Flyways”— March 15th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Did you know that Florida is a major flyway for birds? Join us as we discuss which birds travel the furthest, which stay the longest, and what these birds do during their layover. This is a free program for all ages.

Treehouse Time – March 16th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Learn to communicate like a bee by dancing and singing about honey. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

“Paper Making” Art Class -- March 17th; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present the art of making beautiful and unique paper. \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). RSVP a must.